

Ann Arbor, Mich.
July 21, 1954

President Harland Hatcher
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Mich.

Dear President Hatcher:

During our visit to participate in the University's Biological Symposium, we have had an opportunity to discuss with several members of your faculty the suspension of Professor Clement Markert. For your consideration of this case, we thought the impressions of members of two other faculties might not be irrelevant. We are not well enough informed to be able to offer a final judgment, and do not necessarily support Professor Markert's refusal to testify. However, the Faculty of the University of Michigan is in the best position to judge its own members in the interests of the university and of the nation: if the traditional independence of the University and the privileges of academic freedom for its members are to be preserved, the considered judgment of its Faculty must be given the strongest possible weight.

Respectfully yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics
University of Wisconsin

Francis J. Ryan
Professor of Zoology
Columbia University